

EXHIBIT 5  
DATE 2-12-13  
HB 420

## THUNDERHEAD GARDENS

Local \* Sustainable\* From Seed to Sauce

Greetings!

Thunderhead LLC is an agricultural-innovative company that specializes in a value-added product, Thunderhead Raspberry Chipotle Sauce. We are located in Lake County, Montana. I am writing you today in support of the Montana Food and Agricultural Development Center Program. Mission Mountain Food Enterprise Center (MMFEC) in Ronan, Montana, has been instrumental in my company's success. MMFEC has provided key technical assistance in our pre-production planning, as well as the on-going actual production of our product. This assistance has included product testing, nutritional analysis, proper product labeling, and compliance with Federal food safety regulations. MMFEC has hosted educational classes that are pertinent to food processors that provide certification in food safety, which is so very important at this time, as well as classes in business planning and strategic marketing, which strengthen the potential for economic growth and success for small agricultural companies such as Thunderhead LLC. With the success of small food processing companies in Montana, our economy will become more viable and competitive with neighboring states. Thunderhead LLC purchases its main ingredients for its product from local farms, uses local businesses such as print shops, label companies, and trucking companies: thereby keeping money from sales of our product circulating in the LOCAL economy. Thunderhead LLC has a great appreciation for Mission Mountain Food Enterprise Center and we could not have realized this business without their technical expertise and support.

Sincerely,

Joel Carlson

President/Owner

Thunderhead LLC.